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ABSTRACT

Six papers review and recommend sites on the Web as resources for teacher librarians include: "Just Do It: A Guide to Getting Out There and Doing It Yourself" (Catherine Ryan); "A Selection of Recommended Web Sites for TLs To Visit" (Karen Bonanno); "A Selection of Recommended Web Sites for TLs To Visit" (Sandra Naude); "Internet Resources for the Teacher Librarian" (Veronica Forsyth); "11 Web Sites to Whet the Appetite of Teacher Librarians" (Trisha Benson); and "A Selection of Recommended Web Sites for TLs To Visit" (Anne Clyde). Highlights of the papers include: newspaper reference; source-checking; developing a home page; intranets; search engines; professional journals; evaluation of Web sites; quick reference sites; online reviews; associations; and the kind of information needed by teacher librarians (and for what purposes). (AEF)

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TOPIC B

HOT SPOTS ON THE WEB FOR TEACHER LIBRARIANS:

A SELECTION OF RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR TLS TO VISIT

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JUST DO IT: A GUIDE TO GETTING OUT THERE AND DOING IT YOURSELF

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This site/document (I'm aware of the ambiguity of calling this a 'paper') is divided into four easy sections: 1. Finding out; 2. Reporting back; 3. Doing it yourself; and 4. Doing it at home.

1. FINDING OUT

We all have our favourite sites. My favourite sites are generally those which provide me with information I can't get anywhere else (eg. lists of fan clubs for a journalist), up to the moment information (eg. newspaper sites), convenient access points (eg. QANTAS or TELSTRA white pages) or things I want to know about, eg. how to... Some of these are obvious and well known sites so here I will stick to the newspaper reference sites. These are of use to students and TLs for a number of reasons. Generally newspaper sites are updated regularly and are great for tapping into news on other countries (even in other languages). They may also have an education page like *The Age* because many of the users are students trying to find current information sources.

My favourites here are ***The Age Newspaper*** at **<http://www.theage.com.au>**, and ***Newslink*** at **<http://www.newslink.org/>** a pretty comprehensive list of international newspaper and magazine sites.

2. REPORTING BACK

We are all now familiar with the kind of resources we can get from the Net in its many forms. I love to quote things I heard in email, in fact I use email quite a bit in fishing for information to write articles. It has been evident for some time that teachers and librarians are becoming concerned that students not only quote their sources, but quote them properly. Much discussion has taken place about this. Some interesting pointers and resources have been found/put together by people such as Chris Bigum at Deakin in Victoria and Jill Abell of Elizabeth College in Tasmania, eg. Abell, Jill. (1996). 'Guidelines for citing references and electronic sources of information', *ACCESS* 10 (2), May: 40. Jill has also put this information on her school's home page ***Elizabeth College Guidelines for citing electronic references and sources of information*** at **<http://www.eliz.tased.edu.au/refs.htm>**.

Other sites worth checking on this topic include:

- ***Thinking Critically about WWW resources***, by Esther Grassian of UCLA (part of training course for Internet users) at **<http://www.ucla.edu/campus/computing/bruinonline/trainers/critical.htm>**;
- ***MLA-Style Citations of Electronic Sources***, by Janice R. Walker at **<http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/walker/mla.html>**;
- ***Citation Style for Internet Sources***, by Mark Wainwright at **<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/maw13/ citation.html>**; and
- ***How Do You Cite URL's in a Bibliography?*** by Jeff Beckleheimer **<http://www.nrlssc.navy.mil/meta/bibliography.html>**.

3. DOING IT YOURSELF

So you want to learn HTML and put a home page together, teach students how to put a home page together, get a library home page up, miss all your favourite evening TV whilst you become a

publisher. It's really not that hard. You don't need to do a course. Nobody needs to show you how. You can do it yourself by referring to one of the many 'do it yourself' sites on the Net.

My favourite is *A beginners guide to HTML* at **<http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimer. html>**. Other sites look at some of the conventions and stylistic issues, for example, the ***Composing good HTML*** site at **<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~tilt/cgh/>**.

The best and easiest thing to do, however, is to go to the Hotdog site. Hotdog is a simple to use Web Editing programme designed in Australia which really means that you never really need to learn HTML at all. You can down load a sample version from their site at **<http://www.anawave.com/hotdog.html4>**.

4. DOING IT AT HOME

Now that you have your page up, why not consider offering resources internally within your organisation using the resources of the Internet. Whatever do I mean? I'm talking about an INTRA-net. Intranets are being used by lots of organisations and networked schools to distribute electronically held information, eg. internal directory, school handbook, internal databases etc.

For more about what an intranet is and how you can use it go to **<http://www.intra.net.au/>**. This site belongs to a company which sets up Intranets for other people and this is an advertisement of their service but has clear explanations and some examples, eg. the 3M site. It also has a long list of references and some on-line articles about Intranets. My favourite intranet is that of CSIRO. This shows how a national company can take advantage of the Internet to tap into external as well as internal company resources from anywhere in the country. I can tap into their home page (which has a great emphasis on library resources incidentally) and yet there is a local area for CSIRO users to which I am locked out. You can find the CSIRO at **<http://www.cis.csiro.au/cis/lib/library.html>**.

And one last thing. Here is something to reflect on from Nora Paul of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in the USA. (The Poynter Institute trains journalists and has a great emphasis on CAR; Computer Aided Reporting, ie. training journalists to use the Internet and other electronic resources.) She said last year: "Can we get over this false nostalgia for the good old days when information was reliable, accurate and well-organised?! There have always been false facts, mis-information and chaotic collections. My favourite example: USA Today had a 'fun facts' box: 'How Many Nations?'. The *1995 Guinness Book of World Records* lists 256 countries in the world. But other sources recognise different numbers: World Bank - 166, Int'l Monetary Fund - 187, UN - 185, US State Department - 189, *World Book Encyclopedia* - 235." (Paul, Nora. 'Re: Internet info -- what you do with it and how?' <newslib@gibbs.oit.unc.edu> Mon, 25 Sep 1995). I think her point is that if we are pedants about accuracy and sources we won't ever go out there and have adventures. Just get out there and use it. Teach students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. The rest is up to them.

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A SELECTION OF RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR TLS TO VISIT

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1. *Guide to Australia* located at **<http://www.csu.edu.au:80/education/australia.html>**.

This site is stacked with hyperlinks to all sites that provide vital information about Australia - statistics, mining, geography, environment, culture, tourism, travel, government and history. An important part of the index is communications. This section provides details about the Internet, Australian web sites and electronic mailing lists. *Guide to Australia* is well worth a visit and a bookmark as it provides a springboard to useful sites that have application across the curriculum.

2. *Search Engines* located at **<http://www.search.com>**.

A vital component of any teacher-librarians life in cyberspace. This site provides search boxes linked to search engines such as Infoseek, Excite, Yahoo, Alta Vista, Lycos and Magellan. My favourite is Lycos as it provides an advanced search process to facilitate Boolean search and matches.

3. *Toss-up: an online magazine written by teachers for teachers* located at **<http://www.uq.oz.au/~zzdpedwe/tossup/toss-up.html>**.

This site is a joint project of Effective Learning and Teaching Unit, Department of Education, Queensland and oz-teacherNet, Queensland University of Technology. The aim of this site is to build a resource which will help educators explore issues about effective learning and teaching and the Internet. There are four main areas for stories - Connections (all aspects of making and maintaining an Internet connection), Curriculum (effective learning and teaching using the Internet), Information Skills (the skills students and teachers need to navigate the net) and Professional Development. Information on the five principles of effective learning and teaching are provided in detail. Another section provides a Soapbox where readers can discuss a topical issue. There are external links to oz-teacherNet, Edupage Update, oz-teacherNet projects and HTML tips and tricks. Stories can be sent to <d.pedwell@mailbox.uq.oz.au>.

4. *BigSix - Information literacy in the USA* located at **<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/edfirst/bigsix/bigsix. html>**.

This site provides the details about BigSix - a systematic approach to information problem-solving, reference to six broad skill areas necessary for successful information problem-solving and a complete library and information skill curriculum.

The BigSix Skills is a product of Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz. The skills can be used by teacher-librarians, teachers and information specialists to help learners to develop information literacy skills.

The Big Six Skills are defined as Task Definition, Information Seeking Strategies, Location and Access, Use of Information, Synthesis and Evaluation. This site provides a detailed description of each of these skill areas.

Also, a handy site for those who subscribe to the mailing list.

5. *oz teacherNet site* located at **<http://owl.qut.edu.au:80/oz-teachernet/>**.

This is a starting point for Australian teachers who want to use the Internet for professional development and curriculum projects. The site provides an Australian email list for teachers, details about curriculum projects, professional associations, current events and resources for the Key Learning Areas. Another handy site for those who subscribe to the mailing list of oz-teacherNet.

6. *Olympics - Atlanta and Sydney* sites can be located at **<http://www.com-stock.com/dave/#index>**, **<http://www.mindspring.com/~danmarch/atlanta.html>**; and **<http://www.sydney.olympic.org/>**.

These sites provide information and links to data about the Olympic Games and the locations. The first two sites link to the Atlanta Olympics. A guide to the Games with other hyperlinks to information about Atlanta, even details about where you can stay in Atlanta, form the major part of these two sites.

The Sydney site provides a summary with an overview, dates and contact addresses for further information. You can find out that Australia will field a volleyball team for the first time in the year 2000. Also, data on the Paralympic Games and the sports associated with these Games are listed. Fact sheets form the major part of the Sydney site.

Some school projects have established initial links with students in Atlanta by email to facilitate 'conversation' about what is happening in Atlanta in preparation for the Olympics. This has generated discussion between the linked schools that goes beyond the topic of Olympics, and facilitates enhanced activity by pointing the web browser to the Olympic sites listed above.

7. *Landcare* located at **<http://www.erin.gov.au/land/landcare/landcare_info.html>**.

This site is produced by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, the Department of Primary Industries and Energy and the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories. It includes the history of landcare development and how to use the site. Current landcare programs are listed in detail and provide a good cross-section of Australian projects.

Addresses of national organisations are provided together with other landcare activities. A link to the Australian Environment On-Line homepage connects you to other environmental projects.

8. *Schools on the Web* located at **<http://www.auswired.net/Chalk/Schools.html>**.

Schools throughout Australia are listed at this site. From this homepage you can view the school's homepage and find out details about the school and links to other educational sites. Also, the email address of a contact person at the school is provided. For schools contemplating developing their own homepage this is a site to visit to see what has been achieved at the school based level rather than the commercial world.

9. *EdNA (Education Network Australia)* located at **<http://www.edna.edu.au>**.

This is an initial site for testing as EdNA becomes a major provider of educational resource material. Hyperlinks take you to educational sites, resources, educational projects and services. Details are also given about the Key Learning Areas and cross-curriculum foci.

10. *Holidays in Australia* located at **<http://www.cos.com.au/travelaus>** and **<http://www.oztourism.com.au/~gdaymate>**.

Every teacher-librarian has to build in time for some adventure. I couldn't think of a better way than to browse the holiday sites to find an exotic place to have some rest, relaxation and refreshing time.

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A SELECTION OF RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR TLS TO VISIT

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The following sites are my favourites:

1. ***ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) Site*** located at **<http://www.abc.net.au>**.

This a very useful site for determining what's available on the ABC Radio and Television and what is available in ABC shops. Best sellers; what's hot; new releases; and tour dates relate to all areas of ABC production including book, audio, video, radio and television. Details are given of all ABC television and radio programs, both present and future. Interests can be explored with subject searches. Forthcoming highlights of radio and television are described in detail. Links are provided for *Four Corners; Hotchips; HTTP; Quantum; Radio National; Radio Australia and BTN (Behind The News)*; as well as education links; science links; media links; music links and politics links.

2. ***Guide to Australia*** located at **<http://www.csu.edu.au/education/australia.html>**.

This is a wonderful site for information about Australia. The compilers are hoping to produce an online hypertext encyclopaedia, by providing links to all available online resources about Australia. This site includes general facts about Australia; facts about Australian currency; Royal Flying Doctor Service; Australian Stock Exchange; mining; States and Territories; flora and fauna; communications; media; art; music; tourism; government and history; the Australian Constitution; Australian legal information; science and technology and Australian telephone directories. Many of these links are links to other sites, but some links such as mining provide actual data , which can be used by all school levels.

3. ***Australian Embassy, Washington DC*** located at **<http://www.aust.emb.nw.dc.us>**.

This site compliments *Guide to Australia* as it provides actual information about Australia rather than focusing on the provision of links to other sites. This site covers economy; international trade; geography and climate; flora and fauna; people; history; government; tourist tips; visas and immigration. The links that it does provide include Canberra Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and 'other great Australian Sites'. The information provided is suitable for all school levels.

4. ***Olympic Sites***

With the Olympics in July, I am sure the Olympics will be a hot topic in all schools. Two very useful sites are:

Olympic History located at **<http://www.cam.org/~fishon1/olympic.html>**. This covers the history of the Olympics in a very comprehensive and readable manner and is suitable for both primary and secondary schools.

Guide to 1966 Olympic Games located at **<http://www.netroam.com/olympic/index.html>**. This covers everything anyone ever wanted to know about the Atlanta Olympics from ticket sales; venues and maps to information about the Games; medals and record holders. All sports included in the Games are dealt with individually. This site has links to the official *Olympic Games site* located at **<http://www.atlanta.olympics.org/>**. I found the official site not as useful as the *Guide to the Olympic Games* as it appeared to concentrate more on more pictures and graphics and less on information.

5. ***ASAPWeb*** located at **<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au>**.

This site is excellent for finding information and gaining an understanding of Australia's Scientific Heritage. Links on the site include:

- *Bright Sparcs* which provides information on 2000 Australian Scientists. These can be searched alphabetically by name or by scientific field.
- *History of Australian science and technology*

- *Physics in Australia to 1945*
- *WWW Virtual Library*, which covers the history of science, technology and medicine.
- links to museums, exhibits and images around the world. This includes the a-bomb museum in Japan; History of Heart Disease Museum; Benjamin Franklin Museum; Women of Science Museum; Leonardo Museum; Bologna Astronomica Museum.

Links are also provided to the *Australian Academy of Science* and the *Australian Foundation for Science* as well as electronic science journals and email discussion lists and news groups.

6. ***Guide to Australian Art Sites*** located at **<http://online.anu.edu.au/ITA/AusArts/www/library/austart.html>**.

This site explains itself as it is a comprehensive guide to Australian Art, providing links to a wide range of Australian Art sites including: the *Aboriginal Studies Homepage* covering Aboriginal art, culture and music; the *National Library Pictorial Collections; University Art Collections; Art Schools and Art History Departments; Australian Art Galleries and Collections* and *ArtServe*, the server from the Australian National University Department of Art History which offers access to about 10,200 images and allows you to 'dial-up' images you want. A dream for serious art students and teachers.

7. ***Mathmagic*** located at **<http://forum.swathmore.edu/mathmagic/>**.

MathMagic is a K-12 telecommunications project developed in El Paso Texas, which encourages students to solve mathematics problems over the Internet. Their are four categories K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12, and registered teams from schools around the world pair up with another team to engage in problem-solving activities. When the two teams agree on a solution then a solution is posted for each pair of teams. Apart from the obvious advantage of encouraging mathematical problem solving, the pairs learn a great deal about the other students in the team and about their customs and home country.

8. ***New Zealand Government Web Server*** located at **<http://www.govt.nz>**.

This web site provides a detailed map of New Zealand and sufficient information to satisfy most primary and lower secondary assignments on New Zealand, or at least provide a satisfying starting point. Topics include the land; the people; the economy; living costs; and international comparisons. There are numerous links to other sites containing information about New Zealand including travel; business; weather; the orchestra; the National Library; the Universities; culture; statistics and citizenship.

9. ***Jane Austen Information Page*** located at **<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~churchh/>**.

With all the hype about Jane Austen over the past few months, the *Jane Austen Page* provides considerable interest even for those are not studying her novels. For those students who are, this page might provide the additional stimulation to keep them reading and might even help them with their assignments. This page created by Henry Churchyard of the University of Texas includes annotated, complete texts of her novels; texts of her minor works; study notes; genealogy charts of her characters; guides to television and films of her works; academic articles, period maps of Bath, original illustrations and a picture of Jane Austen.

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8

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR THE TEACHER LIBRARIAN

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1. PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

FROM NOW ON is a monthly electronic commentary on educational and technological issues. The site is authored by Dr Jamieson McKenzie, the Director of Libraries, Bellingham Schools, Bellingham WA. It is a site, which has been maintained over the past 12 months, with thought provoking and topical discussions about the Internet and its application in education. The Mar/April journal, Vol 5 No 6, is titled, "Filtering the Web: A tale of fishnet stockings and swiss cheese." The articles included are, "Why do some schools filter?", "A dozen reasons to avoid filtering", "Bad sex sites found while filtered," "How about parents and families?" Included in this months journal are referees for Jamie McKenzie and a collection of related resources with links to filtering and child safty information.

McKenzie's style is clear, his articles are very readable and provide a good stepping stone for further reading on a particular topic. There is balance in his approach to each topic, with reference to differing points of view, where relevant. There are no external links apart from the related resources, of these, five links were inaccessible. It is available at the URL **<http://www.pacificrim.net/ ~mckenzie>**, or via email at **<mckenzie@pacificrim.net>**.

TOSS-UP is an online magazine written by teachers for teachers. It is authored jointly by the Effective Learning and Teaching Unit, Department of Education, Qld. and oz-teacher Net, QUT. The site aims to explore issues about teaching and the Internet under four main areas. "Connections", comments about all aspects of making and maintaining the physical Internet connection. "Curriculum", which aims to demonstrate and discuss "effective" learning and teaching using the Internet. "Information Skills", which are the skills required to navigate the Net and "Professional Development" which aims to further inservice and train teachers in the use of the Internet.

The site currently hosts few articles. It is a fairly recent site with plenty of room for more comment and discussion. The value of this site is that it is meant for teacher to teacher comment and will reflect the current trends and experiences of those working with the Internet in schools. The set out of the site can be confusing, the links to each of the four main areas are not clearly indicated. There are external links to both the Effective Learning and Teaching Unit, Qld and Oz TeacherNet, QUT. The site is maintained by David Pedwell. It is located at **<http://www.uq.oz.au/~zzdpedwe/tossup/toss-up.html>** or available via email at **<d.pedwell@mailbox.uq. oz.au>**.

2. EVALUATION OF WEB SITES

The ***INTERNET SOURCE VALIDATION PROJECT*** was prepared by staff at Memorial University and Bishops High School to assist their students evaluate the web sites that they are using. The site uses the terms "concrete validity"and "context validity" explaining each with examples for the students to use. The two types of validity tests look at such things as the web site's source, authority, intent, and other links. It is designed for secondary students through to university level. It is a comprehensive site with a reference section which links to more Internet evaluation tools. One of these references is called "Critical Evaluation Surveys" by Kathy Schrock which contains simplified descriptors for children in the primary school level. There are external links to both the Memorial University, Faculty of Education and Bishops High School. The site is located at **<http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Curriculum/Validate/>**, or is available email at **<edu6662@calvin.stemnet.nf.ca>**.

3. QUICK REFERENCE SITES

The ***CIA 95 FACTBOOK*** is a very detailed source of information on each of the countries of the world. For each country there is information listed under the headings; geography, people, government, economy, transport, communication and defence. The factbook is published annually in July by the Central Intelligence Agency for use by US Government Officials. Information for the

yearly updates are provided by various United States Government departments. The site has been prepared for an adult audience, text is quite small and can be difficult to read. It is a site which would be best used by teachers and secondary students to access the latest and most up to date information about a particular country of study.

The site is indexed alphabetically by country name. There is also a collection of maps showing simple data such as borders, cities and main towns. As well there is an address for contact with the CIA department handling this publication and a page with notes, definitions and abbreviations. There are no external links to this site. It is located at **<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/95fact/index.html>**.

The site ***GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA*** aims to provide links to all online resources about Australia available to the World Wide Web. The site is co-authored by David Green, from the Charles Sturt University and by Jim Croft from the Australian Botanical Gardens. Reading age for the various topics are varied, depending on authorship. The various sites are grouped loosely under subject headings, there is the need though to explore the site. As an example, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary is listed under *Queensland, tourism*, but within there is a very valuable section on *Endangered Australian Animals* which would rival current CD-Rom material for primary school children on the same topic.

This site contains a multitude of links and will continue to grow, as WWW sites expand. One of the links is to a site called *Australia Index Virtual Library*, which is an alphabetical listing of sites with a brief summary of content. As with the ***Guide to Australia***, there is a need to explore as the titles and the brief summary are sometimes not an adequate description from an educators point of view. There are many government publications listed, one of which being the *Australian Bureau of Statistics* which is updated daily. There are external links to *Charles Sturt University* and the *Australian National Botanical Gardens*. This site is located at **<http://www.csu.edu.au/education/australia.html>**.

The ***Children's Literature Guide*** is a collection of Internet resources related to books for children and young adults. The site is collated by David K Brown, Director of the Doucette Library of Teaching Resources from the University of Calgary, who in gathering all these resources togeher hopes to lead the reader back to the books themselves. The site is an impressive list of links covering all aspects of children's literature available online. The site contains many areas; a listing of international conferences and award winners relevant to children's literature, information about authors and illustrators, online stories and samples of books in print. There are also links to booksellers and publishers(American) and research guides, indexes and other resources. There is an external link to the *Doucette Library of Teaching Resources* from the University of Calgary. It is located at **<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html>**.

4. ONLINE REVIEWS

The ***INVENTORY OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES*** provides reviews of electronic based information resources. The site has been prepared by the Open Learning Technology Corporation, funded by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. Each review contains comprehensive details of publisher, cost, ISBN, with system requirements, a detailed description and review, a rating and appropriate curriculum area application. The reviews are indexed according to subject area. There is also a keyword search facility, demonstrations with links to appropriate "plug-in" software from Netscape to view and a discussion forum section. The site is maintained by Michelle Teis. There are external links to OLTC, DEETYA and EdNa. It is located at **<http://netspot.com.au/oltc/ier/>**.

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Veronica may be contacted via email at **<westdata@gil.com.au>**.
She also has a Home Page at **<http://www.gil.com.au/~westdata/>**.

11 WEB SITES TO WHET THE APPETITE OF TEACHER LIBRARIANS

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It is a bit like going to a good restaurant. The Internet is a menu of choices where, like the restaurant, there are so many dishes to choose from, and one wonders if the description will match what will be delivered. Which is the dish for you? If time is a factor, and it often is :-(then perhaps the menu choices presented below will provide a guide as to the more interesting selections available on the Net, and ones that will suit a teacher librarian's palate :-) Enjoy!

ENTREE

A site that whets the appetite and develops a taste for what the Net can offer is the ***LIBRARY RESOURCE LIST***, developed by the Wisconsin State Division for Libraries and Community Learning located at <***http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/lib_res.html***>. This is a good starter for those teacher librarians new to the Internet, as well as those who want to keep on top of developments in technology in the library and education fields. It provides links to general reference resources, new Net sites, libraries on the WWW and library OPACs, professional information on library-related email lists, book reviews and other book information, and cataloguing. For those more politically minded, there are links to sites devoted to the use of the Internet in libraries, with an emphasis on the US situation and telecommunications legislation (something worth keeping in touch!). The Education Technology link in the Education Resource List provides information on sites to assist TLs involved in technology planning in their schools as well as subject-based sites and lesson plans to use with other teaching staff.

SORBET

Something light and easily digestible is recommended here. My suggestions include three sites that keep you aware of new resources on the Net. A daily scan doesn't take long and can provide an opportunity to access something light-hearted as well as the more serious stuff of our professional work.

The *NCSA WHAT'S NEW* page is a joint production of NCSA, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and Global Network Navigator, Inc. It provides a daily listing, that is archived, of new sites on the web, including a separate 'Best 5' category. It is located at **<http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/Mosaic/Docs/whats-new.html>**.

The ***SCOUT REPORT*** **<http://rs.internic.net/scout/report/>** offers, on a weekly basis, listings and accompanying summaries of research, educational or general interest sites. It also includes information on the latest network tools available on the Net.

The ***VIRTUAL DAILY NEWS*** **<http://www.infi.net/~opfer/daily.htm>** is a site that links various news organisations, including Reuters, NandO and CNN World. As well as world news, sport, comics, technology and education information, you can search for a particular magazine or newspaper. I recommend checking more than one news source as they don't overlap as much as one would think. Very handy, too, for when that staff member comes up and asks for the latest info on.....

MAIN COURSE

Now for the 'meat and three veg' section! There is some serious consumption in store for you here, so it is always best to set aside some time in order to gain the maximum value from these sites. Like

any new thing, there are many interesting flavours to choose from but familiarity will eventually identify the more appropriate links.

The *WWW VIRTUAL LIBRARY* **<http://www.w3.org/hypertext/DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html>** is a distributed subject catalogue maintained by volunteers at W3 Consortium. This is THE definitive quality information source. Like an annotated bibliography, it lists links to sites that deal with specific subject areas. I would recommend consulting this site, before using a search engine, if the subject area is not too esoteric. There is usually enough starting points here to keep any library user happy for a while.

The ARGUS/UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLEARINGHOUSE . **<http://www.lib.umich.edu/chhome.html>** is similar to the *WWW Virtual Library* above. Its subject headings are broader, hence it may take a bit longer to digest, but if the link is busy to the virtual library, then this makes a good backup. This site still offers a lot of choices and some may prefer this resource to the virtual library, for particular subject areas.

The *ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR YOUTH SERVICES* **<http://www.ccn.cs.dal.ca/~aa331/childlit.html>** is the best site I have come across so far for children's literature links on the web. It provides a collection of links to online literature, authors, book awards, storytelling, writing resources, newsgroups and listservs devoted to children's literature, and the list goes on. It is an ideal site for teacher/librarians to sample.

Now one for TLs that need to keep in touch with the (intended) regulation of the Internet by government bodies. *REGULATING THE NET* **<http://www.anu.edu.au/people/Roger.Clarke/II/Regn>** by Roger Clarke, a Visiting Fellow at the Australia National University. It gives a good overview of what is happening in Australia, US, Sweden, Germany; some of the incidents and consequences that have already occurred; and other relevant material. This is also a useful site when parents are after information on the protections and controls of what is available on the Net.

ACCOMPANIMENTS

With every main course, there are side dishes. Considered as extras, they can be consumed by those with an appetite for them, or put aside without affecting the flavour of the main meal.

The *INTERNET STARTER KIT for MACINTOSH* by Adam Engst is now available online at **<http://www.mcp.com/228523141195185/hayden/iskm/mac.html>**. For those who would like to understand the technical/configuration side of their Internet software, or are looking for a resource to recommend to new staff users that will help them understand the software, then this site is good value. I particularly recommend Chapter 29. There is also a link to the latest software updates for the Mac. (Sorry, but the PC version is not online yet) :-(

The *CULT OF MACINTOSH* is a good first place to go for help on Macintoshes. It is definitive in providing information on anything and anywhere to do with Macs on the Internet. It covers aspects such as periodicals, software, newsgroups, games, powerbook, apples, vendors, and much more. Very good for consulting on how to troubleshoot that problem you've may have been having with your computer. I have also recommended this page for those TLs who would like to get more into knowing the technical side of their machines. As more and more information becomes availble through the computer medium, we need to at least become familiar with some of the terms and mechanics, especially if we want to sound reasonably knowledgable when a technician or the Computing Coordinator is around. (It's also easier to argue for an upgrade if you know the terms!) :) You can find this site at **<http://cult-of-mac.utu.fi/index.html>**.

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DESSERT AND COFFEE

Dessert should be something decadent, so I have chosen this last site purely for its self-indulgence aspect :-) The *EPICURIOUS HOME PAGE* at <http://www.epicurious.com/epicurious/home.html> is devoted to food, wine, fresh produce, playing with food, gourmet food, menu for the day (with

complete recipe instructions!), and just recipes. It is, of course, a useful site for staff and students concerned with Food Technology/Home Economics.

Now, curl up with a coffee and your notebook, and savour the many flavours you have discovered today on the Internet. Remember, a good meal should never be rushed, and the same goes for a website with many potentially useful links. Sit back, relax and enjoy!

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A SELECTION OF RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR TLS TO VISIT

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Before discussing World Wide Web sites for teacher librarians, it is worth asking what kind of information teacher librarians might need, and for what purposes. Web sites or 'hot spots' can then be considered in terms of the ways in which they meet the information needs of teacher librarians. Not only do teacher librarians use information (including information from the Web) in their own professional field, but they are also responsible for providing information for other people, and for teaching information search skills. Consequently, their information needs are complex, and this is reflected in their use of the Web.

The following are among the purposes for which teacher librarians might be using World Wide Web resources:

1. To locate discussions of professional issues in the field of school librarianship, for example, issues like the selection of electronic resources, or censorship of Internet resources.
2. To find answers to reference questions (for teachers, students, school administrators, and others in the school).
3. To provide information services to teachers and school administrators.
4. To locate information and resources for co-operatively planning and teaching curriculum units.
5. To locate Web sites that are suitable for use in information skills instruction or demonstrations of searching.
6. To extend the range of information resources available in the school by selecting Internet resources that augment the library's collections.
7. To locate recreational resources that may be appropriate for students and others in the school.
8. To support school participation in Internet projects at the local, national, or international level, by providing information, resources, and assistance.
9. To get information about print or audiovisual or software resources that might be purchased or otherwise acquired for the library collection.
10. For user-friendly access to free and commercial online information services, including newspaper databases and services like DIALOG.
11. To encourage creative use of the Internet in the school.
12. To support the creation of the school's own Web pages.
13. For professional development.
14. To keep up to date with current developments in the field.

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All this indicates that teacher librarians need to be aware of a wide range of Web resources and services in many different subject areas. One way of achieving this is to allocate time on a regular basis for Web exploration. However, given the speed with which the Internet is growing, this will probably not be enough. Time can be saved, and extra territory covered, by following up on the 'hot spots' that have been found by other teacher librarians. Thus this virtual conference strand, 'Hot

Spots on the Web for Teacher Librarians' could serve a very useful purpose, particularly in providing leads to material that others have found to be particularly useful or appropriate in the school library setting.

It was with the wide-ranging information needs of teacher librarians in mind that I created a page of 'Links to School Library Resources on the Internet' as part of the Web site of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL). This site as a whole is designed to serve several purposes: to meet the needs of members of the Association for information about IASL activities; to promote the Association to potential members; and to help teacher librarians and others to explore the Internet. The page of 'Links to School Library Resources on the Internet' (I need a snappier title!) is a growing service that provides a starting point for Internet exploration and leads to resources of many different kinds.

The IASL Web server is mounted on a mainframe computer at the University of Iceland. Don't let the distance put you off -- the computer is large and the international links to it are normally very fast, so that the pages come up within a few seconds on most Australian connections. Graphics have been kept to a minimum to conserve bandwidth, to improve speed, and to make life easier for IASL members who are in countries where Internet connections are slow or difficult. To get to the server, point your browser to <**http://www.rhi.hi.is/~anne/iasl.html**>.

This brings you to the home page of the Association. From the menu, select the option 'Links to School Library Resources on the Internet'. There are more than 100 links on this page, each with a short descriptive annotation. The resources are organised into categories, defined by a menu at the top of the page. The categories include the following:

- Library Associations
- School Library Associations
- School Libraries and School Librarians on the Internet
- Resources for School Librarians
- Educational Resources
- Children's Literature Resources
- Other Resources
- Resources Provided by IASL Sponsors and Partners
- School Librarianship Listservs

The servers of professional associations in the general field of librarianship have been included partly because they provide professional resources for their members and others, and partly because they often provide guidance for Internet exploration. Thus the Web pages of the American Library Association (ALA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) provide many useful links to resources for librarians, and also links that will help teacher librarians to provide better services to their students, teachers, and administrators.

The Web pages of the school library associations will be even more directly related to the needs of teacher librarians. For example, the Web pages of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) not only provide information about the Association but also provide links to school library resources and to curriculum resources in a number of subject fields. An interesting part of the AASL Web server is ICONnect, 'a technology initiative of the ... Association ... that is designed to get students, library media specialists and teachers connected to and using the Internet'. On the Web pages of the British Columbia Teacher Librarians' Association (BCTLA), Internet resources for school libraries are organised into broad Dewey classes so that they are accessible in the same way as other school library resources. Other school library associations with Web pages include the Canadian School Library Association, the Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians Association, and the Manitoba School Library Association.

Some school librarians have created Web pages for their libraries, either to promote the library, or to provide a service for library users, or both. These pages may serve as models for other school librarians who are thinking of creating Web pages, and as a source of ideas. However, they can be useful in another way: they usually incorporate links to help members of their school community to

find appropriate resources on the Internet, and these links are likely to be of interest to other schools where similar programmes are in operation. The IASL page includes a few links to individual school library home pages, including the pages of St Kevin's College, Toorak, Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, and Kilvington Baptist Girls' Grammar School, Melbourne (all in Victoria). The IASL page also provides two links to useful index pages. Peter Milbury, the library media specialist at Chico Senior High School in California (and Co-owner of the LM_NET international listserv for 'school library media people'), has created 'School Library Web Pages', which provides links to Web pages that have been created by school librarians. Linda Bertland, another American school library media specialist, has created 'School Libraries on the Internet: A Directory', which has a different focus: this is an interactive listing of school library web pages by country (with some from Australia).

The section of the IASL page on 'resources for school librarians' lists a wide range of resources and services, most of which (though not all) were designed specifically for school librarians or people who are providing library and information services for young people. There are links to the Internet Public Library (an enormous and friendly virtual library, including a youth services division, created by the library school at the University of Michigan), 'Cool School Tools' (curriculum-related resources), 'The Internet Advocate' (links for school librarians), 'School Librarians' Hot Spots' (created by the Assiniboine School Division in the United States, among others. One particularly useful link is to 'World Link', an electronic journal for school librarians and teachers, created by American school library media specialist Linda Joseph. 'World Link' has short, practical articles, and lists of Internet sites, with evaluative comment.

Under the heading 'educational resources', there are links to national and regional educational networks that have collections of resources and links to Internet sites. Among these are Canada's SchoolNet, SchoolNet UK (provided by Eaton School in Norwich in association with the University of East Anglia), and Bushnet (an Australian network of schools in far North Queensland, whose site comes complete with blowflies, barbed wire, and other bush icons). Useful sites developed by teachers include the 'Hotlist of K-12 Internet School Sites' and the 'Busy Teachers' Web Site K-12', both in the United States. In the United Kingdom, the University of Wales at Aberystwyth provides 'Magpie - The Internet Educational Resources Guide', while the National Council for Educational Technology (NCET) provides the full text of its comprehensive book, *Highways for Learning: An Introduction to the Internet for Schools and Colleges*. To say that the latter is the full text of a book is something of an understatement: it incorporates an interactive directory to hundreds of Internet sites for educators, arranged by subject. Two American commercial sites (with free access) are worth noting. One is the Scholastic Internet Center, which has information about books and authors, and educational materials, as well as online ordering facilities for Scholastic products. The other is the Web site of the monthly magazine 'Classroom Connect', a magazine that provides practical articles for teachers who want to use the Internet within the context of the school curriculum. The Web site advertises the magazine and provides additional information and links.

Other sections of the IASL page lead to children's literature resources, and to other resources, such as the well-known 'Uncle Bob's Kids Page' (great fun). There are also links to other resources on the IASL server itself, including selected articles from the IASL Newsletter, contents lists from the IASL journal *School Libraries Worldwide*, and information about IASL conferences and other activities.

The International Association of School Librarianship provides 'an international forum for those people interested in promoting effective school library media programmes as viable instruments in the educational process. Membership is worldwide, and includes school librarians, teachers, librarians, library advisers, consultants, educational administrators, and others who are responsible for library and information services in schools. The membership also includes professors and instructors in universities and colleges where there are programmes for school librarians, and students who are undertaking such programmes.' Activities of the Association include:

- annual conferences (in a different country each year);
- a quarterly print newsletter (with selected articles on the Web);
- a professional journal, *School Libraries Worldwide*;
- an Internet listserv for members, called IASL@LINK;
- a leadership development Fund that assists leaders in the field of education and libraries in developing countries;

- an International Commendation Award, provided each year in association with SIRS (won four times by Australian projects!);
- a publishing programme;
- a research grant (in association with Softlink International);
- and other activities and programmes.

For further information about the Association, see the relevant sections of the Web server.

The IASL Web server was established in late 1995, and it has grown during the last six months. It is planned that by the end of 1996, it will have doubled in size. In particular, I would like to add more full-text documents, and I am currently seeking copyright clearance from authors and publishers to add a range of materials from different sources. In addition, more IASL documents and articles will be available through the server. At present, I am on sabbatical leave from the University of Iceland, and my access to the mainframe computer at the University of Iceland will be limited until I return to Iceland in mid-August. After that time, you can expect to see a number of changes implemented. Suggestions are welcome! I would like to be able to add links to any resources created by school librarians and school library associations. I would also like to be able to add some full-text documents from Australia, and I will be approaching copyright owners later in the year.

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